

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00937 111833Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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SAB-01 OMB-01 /057 W

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R 111813Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2933

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 0937

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MAJOR UMAR MUHAYSHI'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. DAMASCUS AL-BAATH MARCH 11 CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN RCC MEMBER MAJOR UMAR MUHAYSHI PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM DAMASCUS. KEY POINTS ARE GENERAL LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR SARG POSITION RELATIVE TO SECRETARY'S PEACE EFFORTS AND STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE INVITATION VISIT LIBYA FOR MARCH 28 EVACUATION DAY CEREMONIES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THEMES OF INTERVIEW:

A. LIBYA BELIEVES AMERICA IS A DISHONORABLE MEDIATOR AND THAT IT SEEKS EXPLOIT EXISTING GAPS IN ARAB RANKS.

B. CRITICIZES "SOME ARAB STATESMEN" FOR OFFERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCESSIONS WHICH "WILL CERTAINLY LEAD TO LOSING UNITY

OF ARAB COORDINATION," AND CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING OF ARAB SOLIDARITY TO RESIST THE "KISSINGER ATTACK" ON THE REGION.

C. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ARABS TO PRESERVE SOVIET TIES AS AID TO CONCLUDING PEACE SETTLEMENT.

D. LIBYA SUPPORTS PRESIDENT ASAD'S PROPOSAL OF JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND AND IS PLEASED WITH ARAFAT'S RESPONSE.

3. PRESIDENT ASAD HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE INVITATION TO VISIT LIBYA MARCH 28 FOR CEREMONIES MARKING LIBYAN EVACUATION DAY. VISIT WILL GIVE SYRIAN-LIBYAN LEADERSHIP CHANCE TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL MATTERS.

3. COMMENT. MUHAYSHI'S VISIT HERE SYMBOLIZED A RE-WARMING OF LIBYAN-SYRIAN TIES. IN COURSE OF HIS VISIT MUHAYSHI WAS THE ONLY NON-SYRIAN SPEAKER AT THE MARCH 8 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE BAATH PARTY'S 1963 TAKEOVER SHARING THE PLATFORM WITH ASAD. HIS STRIDENT ATTACKS ON ENEMIES OF THE ARABS AND COCKY DELIVERY SEEMED AMUSE THE AUDIENCE WHICH WARMLY APPLAUDED HIS PLEDGE OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR SYRIA AND ASAD'S LEADERSHIP.

4. MARCH 11 ISSUE OF AL-BAATH BEING POUCHED TRIPOLI. MURPHY

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